

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 209

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia.

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Whereas the United States has an enduring interest in the independence, territorial integrity, and security of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and supports their full integration in the community of democratic Euro-Atlantic states;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia have taken clear and positive steps to advance their integration into Eu-

rope by establishing close cooperative relations among themselves and with their neighbors, as well as their promotion of regional cooperation;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia have already contributed to European security and to the peace and security of southeast Europe through the resolution of conflicts in the region and their regional cooperation in the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial;

Whereas on May 2, 2003, the United States-Adriatic Charter was signed in Tirana, Albania, by Secretary of State Colin Powell, Albanian Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva;

Whereas the Adriatic Charter affirms the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to the values and principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to joining the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Secretary of State Powell stated that the Adriatic Charter “reaffirms our partners’ dedication to work individually, with each other, and with their neighbors to build a region of strong democracies powered by free market economies . . . [i]t underscores the importance we place on their eventual full integration into NATO and other European institutions . . . [a]nd most importantly, the Charter promises to strengthen the ties that bind the peoples of the region to the United States, to one another, and to a common future within the Euro-Atlantic family”; and

Whereas 75 Albanian special forces troops were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 Macedonian special forces troops were sent

to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia all contributed to the stabilization forces in Afghanistan, as signs of their commitment to promote international freedom and security: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) strongly supports the United States-Adriatic
 4 Charter and commends Albania, Croatia, and Mac-
 5 edonia for their continued efforts to become full-
 6 fledged members of the North Atlantic Treaty Orga-
 7 nization (NATO) and the European Union;

8 (2) urges NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and
 9 Macedonia to join NATO as soon as each of these
 10 countries respectively demonstrates the ability to as-
 11 sume the responsibilities of NATO membership
 12 through the Membership Action Plan;

13 (3) welcomes and supports the aspirations of
 14 Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to join the Euro-
 15 pean Union at the earliest opportunity;

16 (4) recognizes that Albania, Croatia, and Mac-
 17 edonia are making important strides to bring their
 18 economic, military, and political institutions into
 19 conformance with the standards of NATO and other
 20 Euro-Atlantic institutions; and

- 1 (5) commends Secretary of State Powell for his
- 2 personal support of the Adriatic Charter.

Passed the House of Representatives June 23, 2003.

Attest:

Clerk.